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AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMLLY FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 1982 PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 20 November 1981, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. NAIK (Pakistan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the President of the General Assembly, who was currently absent from New York, had requested that the following message should be read out on his behalf.

2. Few causes could be more deserving of universal support than aid to refugees. Few undertakings could be more indicative of the ideals of the United Nations. In providing relief and support to refugees throughout the world, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was fulfilling one of the main purposes of the Charter, namely, the harmonization of the actions of nations in the attainment of peace.

3. UNHCR was responsible for protecting and assisting more than 10 million refugees and displaced persons, whose presence was not only a challenge to humanity but also often a threat to stability. Success in bringing speedy and adequate aid to refugees strengthened the peace effort. Failure to provide such aid could exacerbate the destabilizing effects which the presence of refugees might have.

4. The principle of international burden-sharing in helping refugees must be accepted globally. The granting of asylum and the humane treatment of refugees must be a genuine concern for the international community as a whole. Following a dramatic increase in programme requirements over the past three to four years - an increase forced upon UNHCR by circumstances - the High Commissioner had informed the Third Committee of the General Assembly of a slight decrease in the Office's financial needs for 1982. The $US 450 million needed by UNHCR for its programmes in 1982 still represented a considerable amount, but was modest in the light of the magnitude of the problem and the possibility of bettering conditions for mankind through the activities of UNHCR.

5. All Member States were urged to make generous contributions with a view to providing the full amount needed for the 1982 Programme.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

6. The CHAIRMAN said that the importance of providing UNHCR with the means to carry out its universal task was evident to him as a representative of a country with one of the largest refugee populations in the world. UNHCR was seeking lasting solutions to the problems of more than 10 million refugees and displaced persons. In the initial phases of most operations, emergency relief had to be provided. Pending voluntary repatriation, which constituted the ideal lasting solution, other solutions had to be found. They included integration in the first country of asylum, and as an alternative, resettlement in another country.

7. On the basis of known requirements, UNHCR would need some $US 450 million in order to carry out its wide array of activities in 1982. The amount needed

for the General Programmes alone was almost $388 million. The purpose of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee was to facilitate the pledging of contributions by Governments so that UNHCR could fulfil its mission to protect and assist refugees on behalf of the international community as a whole. States would be remiss if they failed to give UNHCR the universal support it deserved and needed. Each State Member of the United Nations bore a responsibility and had a role to play, however modest, in trying to improve the condition of the world's refugees. He was confident that the response at the current meeting would show that States were mindful of their obligation to support UNHCR in its effort to bring dignity to individuals and peace to mankind.

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

8. Mr. HARTLING (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that he was deeply grateful to all the organizations, Governments and others that had contributed to UNHCR programmes in the past. He fully appreciated the great difficulty imposed on the international community in meeting the considerable needs of refugees under those programmes. He was happy that the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme had placed on record, at its thirty-second session, in October 1981, its appreciation of the support given to UNHCR.

9. At that session, the Executive Committee had approved a target of almost $US 388 million for the UNHCR General Programmes in 1982. In addition, it had taken note that UNHCR's over-all voluntary fund requirements in 1982, covering both General and Special Programmes, might eventually be in the region of $US 450 million. The funding of those Programmes almost completely depended on the availability of voluntary contributions. Both UNHCR and the Executive Committee emphasized the principle that the refugee problem deserved universal and equitable support from Governments. UNHCR therefore sought constantly to increase the number of contributors to refugee programmes. Only by such action could the full funding of the assistance be assured. Some positive results had been achieved in that area in 1981, and he was grateful to those Governments which had responded to the needs of refugees by increasing the level of their contributions.

10. For the foreseeable future, the needs of refugees in Africa, Pakistan, South-East Asia and Central America continued to cause great concern. While the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva in April 1981, had been successful both in terms of contributions and in terms of the publicity given to the dramatic refugee situation in Africa, it was important to realize the urgency and extent of ongoing refugee needs in that continent. In 1982, UNHCR would continue with determination to try to meet the needs identified as being within its competence.

11. In Pakistan, much had been achieved in basic assistance to refugees from Afghanistan, but that assistance had to be maintained. The refugee situation in Pakistan was currently the largest single refugee situation with which UNHCR had to deal. In 1982, considerable resources would be needed to enable it

(Mr. Hartling, UNHCR)

to provide essential assistance to refugees in that country.

12. In South-East Asia, although the over-all number of refugees had declined somehwat in 1981, a significant number remained and continued to need help.

13. In Central America, with the assistance of the Governments of the countries of asylum, UNHCR was helping many thousands of refugees. The effort to provide basic assistance and help the refugees towards self-sufficiency had to be continued in 1982.

14. He hoped that as many delegations as possible would make substantial, firm and unearmarked contributions with a view to allowing the programmes approved by the Executive Committee to be carried out by UNHCR on the scale required for good implementation. He trusted that the international community would maintain its support so that UNHCR could continue to bring to refugees the help they needed and deserved.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 1982 PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

15. The representative of BELGIUM said that, subject to parliamentary approval, his Government would contribute 20 million Belgian francs, the equivalent of $US 533,000, to UNHCR General Programmes in 1982, and BF 2 million, the equivalent of $US 53,300, for the operating costs of the UNHCR office in Brussels. Those contributions did not preclude the possibility that his Government might consider making contributions to the Special Programmes at a later date.

16. The representative of LUXEMBOURG said that her Government had decided, subject to parliamentary approval, to contribute 325,000 Luxembourg francs, fully convertible, to the 1982 Programme of UNHCR.

17. The representative of CANADA said that, in setting the level of its 1982 core contribution, her Government had taken into account the resources that UNHCR needed in order to meet its humanitarian commitments. It had also noted with approval the administrative and budgetary measures taken by the High Commissioner, which would permit UNHCR to respond positively to the challenges ahead.

18. Subject to parliamentary approval, Canada's core contribution to UNHCR for 1982 would total $Can 4.6 million, an increase of 15 per cent over the core contribution made in 1980. In accordance with its humanitarian tradition, Canada would continue to respond positively to particular refugee requirements that might arise in 1982.

19. The representative of GREECE announced a contribution of $US 80,000 to the 1982 Programme of UNHCR. That contribution represented a 14 per cent increase over the contribution for 1981 and was subject to the usual parliamentary approval. He reiterated his Government's deep gratitude for the assistance rendered by UNHCR to refugees throughout the world.

20. The representative of SWEDEN said that the untiring work of UNHCR had, for another year, alleviated the plight of the millions who had been forced to leave their homes and countries. Sweden congratulated UNHCR on the award of the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize, which was well deserved.

21. The 1982 Programme of UNHCR had been slightly reduced in the hope that the stream of refugees might be somewhat slower. In view of the never-ending stream of refugees from Afghanistan and in Central America, as well as the continuous difficult situation in such areas as the Horn of Africa, it was feared that optimism might be premature and that UNHCR would be in need of contributions in 1982 of the same magnitude as in 1981.

22. The international community must therefore assume its responsibility in providing financial resources to UNHCR, and the burden must be shared more equally.

23. Sweden noted with satisfaction that a growing proportion of the 1982 Programme was being included in the regular budget. In addition to facilitating the planning process for UNHCR and the recipient countries, that would be advantageous to donor countries, since it would simplify their funding decisions and give them a better overview of their contributions.

24. His Government had decided to increase its contribution to UNHCR and would pledge 50 million Swedish kronor for 1982. That was an increase of SKr 10 million over the pledge made in 1980. Of that amount, SKr 35 million would be allocated to the regular programmes and SKr 15 million would, following the practice of earlier years, be allocated to educational activities. In order to facilitate financial planning over a longer period, his Government wished to announce its contributions for 1983 and 1984. As a sign of support for UNHCR's efforts to improve planning by including a much larger part of the Programme in the regular budget, his Government had decided to increase its contributions for those two years by SKr 10 million. Subject to parliamentary approval, the contributions for each of those years would be SKr 60 million.

25. As in the past, Sweden would continue to make additional contributions, if the activities of UNHCR so required.

26. The representative of SWITZERLAND said that his Government welcomed the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to UNHCR. It also applauded the efforts to restructure the Office and supported the administrative reorganization plan recently submitted to the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. The timely establishment of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters would lead to greater involvement by the donor countries in such matters.

27. His Government was pleased to note that UNHCR had prevented large-scale refoulement from increasing the insecurity of refugees in South-East Asia. It was also pleased with UNHCR's efficient way of alleviating the burden imposed on the countries of first asylum.

28. Subject to parliamentary approval, his Government would contribute 3.5 million Swiss francs - an increase of nearly 120 per cent over the contribution

(Representative of Switzerland)

for 1981 - to the 1982 Programme of UNHCR. Switzerland was mindful of the heavier demands placed on UNHCR as a result of the growing number of refugees in all continents. It would continue to support emergency activities by UNHCR for which additional resources were required.

29. The Swiss corps of volunteers for disaster relief was prepared to continue its assistance to UNHCR. That operational assistance had steadily increased over the past three years. It was estimated that in 1981 Switzerland would have spent more than SwF 2.5 million for the participation of those volunteers in UNHCR-sponsored programmes in Asia and Africa, particularly Somalia.

30. For some years, Switzerland had been spending approximately SwF 20 million per year on assistance to refugees under various national and international programmes, including those of UNHCR. It was spending even more for the reception and integration of refugees in Switzerland.

31. The representative of FINLAND announced that, subject to parliamentary approval, his Government's contribution to the 1982 Programme of UNHCR would be 2.5 million markkaa, the equivalent of approximately $US 562,000 at the current rate of exchange.

32. The representative of CHINA congratulated UNHCR on receiving the award of the Nobel Peace Prize.

33. The Government and people of China were deeply concerned over the plight of refugees and welcomed the massive humanitarian effort made by UNHCR. China had taken an active part in the International Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance and Relief to the Kampuchean People and in the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa. With other donor countries, China did its best to assist refugees. In the spirit of internationalism and humanitarianism, it had received and resettled more than 260,000 Indo-Chinese refugees, at a cost of approximately $US 600 million. Despite its own economic difficulties, compounded by natural disasters, China would contribute to support the humanitarian work of UNHCR to the best of its ability. His Government would contribute $US 200,000 to the General Programmes in 1982.

34. The representative of JAPAN said that her Government greatly appreciated UNHCR's efforts to ease the plight of refugees throughout the world. It congratulated UNHCR on its achievements to date and looked forward to seeing it continue to play an active role in the future.

35. It was as a direct result of the respect her Government had for UNHCR that it had contributed approximately $US 65 million in 1979, about the same amount in 1980 and $US 52 million thus far in 1981 to UNHCR's assistance programme for refugees. That made Japan the second largest donor to UNHCR in each of those three years.

36. Since her Government was in the process of planning the budget for the next fiscal year, her delegation was unable to disclose the size of Japan's contribution

(Representative of Japan)

to the 1982 Programme. She could, however, assure the Ad Hoc Committee that, although her Government was faced with stringent financial conditions and was consequently carefully reviewing all categories of expenditure, it would continue to provide substantial financial support to UNHCR because of the urgency of the refugee problem.

37. The representative of DENMARK said that the refugee problem had been aggravated in the past year by conflicts and tensions, notably in Africa, Asia and Latin America. That development had further increased the heavy responsibilities already placed on UNHCR. Throughout the years, his Government had strongly supported the activities of UNHCR; during the current year, it had already contributed to UNHCR's 1981 budget 53.1 million Danish kroner, the equivalent of $US 7 million. Subject to parliamentary approval, the Danish voluntary contribution to the General Programmes of UNHCR for 1982 would be DKr 18 million, the equivalent of approximately $US 2.5 million. Also subject to parliamentary approval, his Government's contribution to UNHCR's educational and similar activities in 1982 would be DKr 8.1 million, the equivalent of $US 1.1 million.

38. In 1982, as in previous years, his Government would consider favourably requests for extraordinary contributions to UNHCR.

39. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that, as his delegation had pointed out in the Sixth Committee, his Government fully supported the efforts of the High Commissioner, and was accordingly pledging, subject to normal parliamentary procedure, a basic contribution of $A 8.6 million for the UNHCR General Programmes. That would include $A 2 million for African refugee programmes already pledged at the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa.

40. In addition to those contributions, he announced that his Government would provide food aid to the value of approximately $A 21 million through UNHCR for assistance to refugees in Pakistan, South-East Asia and Africa.

41. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND said that he was not yet in a position to announce his Government's pledge to the UNHCR programmes for the coming year, but that the amount would be communicated at the earliest opportunity.

42. The representative of SPAIN said that consideration of his country's national budget was still pending and that he was therefore unable to state the amount of its contribution to UNHCR's activities until parliamentary approval had been obtained.

43. The representative of the NETHERLANDS announced a pledge of 11.3 Dutch guilders (approximately $US 4.5 million), representing an increase of about 10 per cent over its contribution for the previous year. The amount was subject to parliamentary approval. His Government would also look favourably on requests for additional contributions to specific programmes.

44. The representative of MEXICO said that, subject to parliamentary approval, his Government pledged a contribution of $50,000.

45. The representative of VENEZUELA announced that her Government would pledge $20,000 to programmes of UNHCR in 1982, pending formal approval.

46. The representative of COLOMBIA said that his Government's contribution for 1982 would be $15,000.

47. The representative of PAKISTAN said that his country was providing shelter for the world's largest concentration of refugees, almost 2.5 million from Afghanistan, and was therefore especially well-placed to appreciate the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner. It had therefore come as no surprise that the Commissioner and his colleagues had recently been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and he was pleased to have the opportunity to extend his delegation's congratulations to them on the award.

48. The burden of looking after the refugees from Afghanistan had placed an enormous burden on his country's limited resources. Several Member States had contributed generously, and UNHCR, the World Food Programme and scores of non-governmental organizations had played an invaluable role in enabling his Government to fulfil its humanitarian obligations. Notwithstanding that international effort, his country continued to bear the major financial responsibility in that regard. In 1981 alone, his Government would be incurring an expenditure of $US 200 million, or 50 per cent of the total financial requirement.

49. The over-all requirement for the Programmes for 1982, as indicated in the Secretary-General's note of 30 October, was $460 million. That was indeed a large amount, but, in view of the scale of the challenge facing the High Commissioner, his delegation hoped that the international community would lend its full support in the endeavour to meet that target.

50. His Government announced a pledge of 50,000 rupees to UNHCR's Programmes for 1982. Although modest, the sum represented an important contribution in view of the fact that Pakistan was already spending $US 200 million of its own limited funds for the same purposes.

51. The representative of YUGOSLAVIA said that, as in the previous year, her country's contribution to UNHCR's activities would be $30,000, subject to approval by the competent organs of her Government.

52. The representative of BRAZIL said that her Government would make a contribution of $15,000.

53. The representative of TUNISIA said that his Government's pledge of $4,500 reflected its solidarity with the efforts of the international community to alleviate the plight of the refugees.

54. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that his Government was pleased to make a substantial contribution to the valuable work of the Office of the High Commissioner. Its pledge, which was of course contingent upon approval by Congress, was for a total of $80 million. It would also contribute $35.5 million for assistance to refugees in Africa.

55. His Government also pledged a total of $18 million for the care and upkeep of Indo-Chinese refugees, including support for the Khmer holding centres and the refugee processing centres. That sum did not include any funding for the UNHCR programmes in Viet Nam or the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

56. In support of the High Commissioner's assistance Programme for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, his Government pledged $24.15 million. It also pledged $1 million for UNHCR's activities in Latin America, and an additional $1 million for other UNHCR programmes throughout the world.

57. In making those pledges, his Government was assuming that UNHCR would fund a share of the over-all allocations attributable to a specific geographical area from the resources donated by his Government for programmes involving that area.

58. In addition to the pledges he had already announced, he said that $350,000 would be made available by his Government for the administrative costs of the programme for orderly departure from Viet Nam.

59. His delegation would also consider making additional pledges in support of UNHCR's Programmes of assistance as needs arose.

60. The representative of ICELAND announced a pledge of $43,300 to the general programme of UNHCR, subject to parliamentary approval.

61. The representative of CHILE said that his delegation had already expressed its approval of the valuable work carried out by UNHCR in the recent debate in the Third Committee. His Government was aware of the magnitude of the task confronting the Commissioner and was pleased to announce that its contribution, as in previous years, would be $20,000.

62. The representative of SOMALIA said that in the Third Committee his delegation had given details of the heavy burden imposed on his country by the presence of more than 1.5 million refugees, representing almost 30 per cent of the total population. Despite a widespread problem of drought, his country continued to devote a large part of its limited budget to providing assistance to refugees, and it greatly appreciated the help which had been forthcoming from the international community. The amount of his Government's voluntary contribution would be communicated to the Office of the High Commissioner in due course.

63. The representative of ALGERIA said that his Government would make a contribution of $50,000 to the activities of UNHCR. He pointed out that the sum, though modest, represented a considerable increase over its 1981 contribution of $40,000.

64. The representative of NORWAY said that his Government saw the refugee problem as a collective responsibility of the international community. He therefore hoped that the financial burden of alleviating the plight of refugees would be shared more equally by all States Members of the United Nations.

65. He announced that, subject to parliamentary approval, the contribution of his Government to the High Commissioner's regular Programmes for 1982 would amount to $38 million Norwegian kroner, or approximately $US 6 million, representing an increase of more than $US 1 million over the previous year's contribution. Of that amount, $6 million kroner, or approximately $US 1 million, would be earmarked for the educational Programme. His Government would also respond favourably to requests for additional contributions for special programmes.

66. The representative of SUDAN said that, despite its status as one of the least developed countries, his country was obliged to provide shelter and services for more than half a million refugees. In the effort to alleviate that plight, his Government had proclaimed 1980 "Year of the Refugee in the Sudan", in the endeavour to attract the notice of the international community. The multi-agency mission which had visited his country in 1980 had stressed that it was extremely difficult for the Government to meet the needs of both the refugees and the population at large. In spite of those difficulties, and the meagre resources available, his Government pledged a symbolic contribution for 1982 of $3,000 Sudanese pounds to the activities of UNHCR. It should be borne in mind, however, that his Government's real contribution was five times greater than the total of international assistance allocated to the Sudan.

67. The representative of QATAR said that his Government pledged $35,000 as a voluntary contribution to the Programmes of UNHCR.

68. The representative of THAILAND said that, as a country directly affected by the influx of refugees and displaced persons from Kampuchea, Laos and Viet Nam, his country had taken upon itself a major share of the responsibility for accommodating and providing services for a great number of Indo-Chinese refugees. His delegation joined the previous speakers in their expressions of gratitude to the Office of the High Commissioner for its efforts in South-East Asia and elsewhere.

69. His delegation was pleased to announce that his Government was prepared to make a pledge of $US 10,000 for the 1982 Programmes of UNHCR, subject to Cabinet approval and his country's constitutional process.

70. The representative of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA announced that, subject to parliamentary approval, his Government would make a contribution of $US 10,000.

71. The representative of MALTA said that his Government pledged a symbolic contribution of 420 Maltese pounds (equivalent to $US 1,052) as an indication of its concern at the dimensions of the refugee problem.

72. The representative of INDONESIA said that his Government pledged $4,000 for the UNHCR Programmes.

73. The representative of ITALY said that he was not in a position to state the amount of his Government's contribution to the UNHCR budget for 1982, but that his delegation would communicate the amount in due course.

74. The representative of ISRAEL announced that, subject to approval by the Knesset, his Government pledged $15,000 in support of UNHCR activities.

75. The representative of the HOLY SEE said that the Holy See would pledge the amount of $US 2,500 as a symbolic donation reflecting its concern for the plight of refugees. He pointed out that organizations within the Catholic Church provided assistance to refugees all over the world, and he hoped that its contribution would help to alleviate their suffering.

76. The representative of the FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY said that in 1982 his Government would continue to contribute its share of aid to UNHCR through its regular voluntary contributions, special humanitarian aid funds, the promotion of funds-in-trust projects, and the provision of food supplies.

77. Since discussion of its 1982 national budget was still in progress, his Government was not yet in a position to make a definite pledge to UNHCR activities but its contribution would be announced in due course. He pointed out that some countries which had the economic capacity to contribute to UNHCR were not doing so, and he appealed to them to reconsider their position and to join in the efforts of the international community to provide assistance to refugees.

78. The representative of MALAYSIA said that her country's capacity to assist UNHCR in its work was limited in that it had to provide services for a large number of refugees seeking shelter in its own territory. As an indication of its concern, however, it pledged a symbolic contribution of $US 1,500.

79. The representative of IRELAND said that, for reasons of budgetary procedure, his Government was not yet in a position to indicate the amount of its contribution to UNHCR's General Programmes in 1982. It was his Government's intention to continue to support the work of UNHCR, and the relevant information in respect of his country's contribution for 1982 would be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as it became available. His Government was also considering the possibility of making a further contribution to the General Programmes later in the year as a supplement to the contribution it had already made for the calendar year 1981. In addition, it had recently announced its intention of making a contribution to the Commissioner's Programme for the relief of refugees from El Salvador, and it also intended to participate in contributions made to UNHCR by the European Economic Community.

80. The representative of FRANCE said that, in support of resolution 35/41 adopted by the General Assembly in 1980 calling on States to step up contributions to the programme of the High Commissioner, his country would make a voluntary contribution for 1982 of 6.3 million French francs.

81. The representative of VIET NAM welcomed the fruitful and encouraging results for her country's own refugee problems of the co-operation established between

(Representative of Viet Nam)

UNHCR and her Government. She announced a symbolic pledge of $US 1,000 payable in Vietnamese dong. The sum was necessarily modest owing to the difficulties and calamities, inflicted by both natural and human agency, which her country was suffering.

82. The representative of NICARAGUA said that his country was acutely aware of the difficulties posed by the existence of large numbers of refugees; Central America was one of the regions most severely affected, especially in view of its limited capacity in terms of the infrastructures necessary for dealing with those problems. He announced that his country would make a token contribution of $US 1,000 but would, in addition, give all possible assistance to the refugees seeking asylum in its territory, including employment. He hoped that all nations would contribute in proportion to their means in order to enable the excellent relief work of UNHCR to continue, as well as providing care and genuinely humane conditions for the refugees who sought asylum in their countries.

83. The representative of the LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC expressed appreciation of UNHCR's constructive work throughout the world, and especially of the material assistance afforded to Laotian refugees over the past five years. His Government recognized UNHCR's pressing need for massive and generous international co-operation in providing the necessary funds, and regretted that it was unable to increase its contribution. He pledged the sum of $US 6,000, equal to the amount pledged in 1981.

84. The representative of PORTUGAL said that, in view of the magnitude of the problems with which UNHCR was confronted, his Government had decided to increase its contribution to $US 100,000, which was 10 times the amount pledged for 1981. That was a substantial sum, given Portugal's current economic difficulties, and reflected the sincerity of his Government's support for UNHCR's continuing work.

85. The representative of TURKEY announced a contribution for 1982 of $US 11,000, subject to the approval of the national budget for that period.

86. The representative of SENEGAL announced a contribution of $US 3,000.

87. The representative of UGANDA said that his Government was deeply appreciative of the valuable humanitarian work carried out by UNHCR and announced a token contribution of $US 2,500.

88. The representative of NEW ZEALAND said that, in addition to the $NZ 200,000 which it had already pledged to the Programme of assistance for refugees in Africa, the $NZ 50,000 contributed for the relief of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and the pledge shortly to be made to the relief effort in Indo-China, her Government intended to make an increased contribution to the General Programme budget as well as continuing its work of resettlement, especially of Indochinese refugees. It was not yet possible for her to announce the exact amount of that contribution, but it was expected to be at least on the scale of that contributed for 1981.

89. The representative of TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO said that her Government intended to contribute to the programme for 1982, but that firm information as to the amount of the contribution was not yet available. It would communicate with the Secretariat in due course.

90. The representative of AUSTRIA announced a contribution of $US 100,000 to the programme for 1982. That was equivalent to the sum contributed in 1980 and should be seen against the background of the very significant increase in the number of applications for first asylum in his country, which were expected to cost his Government rather more than 500 million Austrian schillings (approximately equivalent to $US 31 million) in 1982.

91. The representative of the UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON announced that, in appreciation of the generous assistance which her Government had received from the international community in the past year, enabling it to face up to the severe difficulties caused by the sudden influx of thousands of refugees, her country would make a contribution for 1982 of 1,300,000 CFA francs, or almost double the amount contributed for 1981.

92. The representative of PANAMA announced a token contribution of $US 1,000.

93. The representative of ZAIRE expressed her Government's gratitude for the substantial assistance which it had received from UNHCR in dealing with the problems created by the large numbers of refugees in its territory. She was not yet in a position to announce the figure of her Government's contribution, but it would be communicated to the Secretariat of UNHCR in due course.

94. The representative of OMAN announced that, in addition to the sum of $US 50,000 already pledged at the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva in April 1981, his country would make a contribution of $US 6,000 to the General Programme of UNHCR.

95. The representative of LEBANON announced a token contribution of $US 10,000 to the General Programme. His Government hoped that, conditions permitting, it might be able to contribute more substantially in the near future.

96. The representative of ZIMBABWE emphasized his country's deep appreciation of the work of UNHCR,and especially its indebtedness for the assistance granted towards relieving the problems caused by more than a quarter of a million refugees in its territory. It had already pledged the symbolic sum of $US 5,000 at the latest pledging conference for UNHCR's operational activities, and might be in a position to contribute a further amount at a later stage.

97. The representative of DJIBOUTI paid a tribute to the valuable work performed by UNHCR. He was confident that it benefited a majority of the refugee population throughout the world, in terms of alleviating suffering and restoring human dignity. His own country had derived considerable benefit and assistance from the programme in relieving the problem of its host of refugees and wished to take the opportunity to express its gratitude and continuing support. He

(Representative of Djibouti)

announced a symbolic contribution of the equivalent of $US 2,000, payable in Djibouti francs, subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers.

98. The CHAIRMAN announced that he had received notification of the following contributions: the equivalent of $US 2,000 from BENIN, and from MONACO 5,000 French francs.

99. Mr. HARTLING (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) expressed his warm appreciation to all Governments which had announced contributions at the meeting, and especially to those which had increased their contributions since the previous year. He informed the Committee that the total amount pledged at the current meeting alone amounted to slightly more than $US 122 million. That was most encouraging, and he was confident that the scale of the contributions so far announced would serve as an inspiring example to other countries, ensuring that the balance of the funds required to meet the programme's target for 1982 would be found.

100. The CHAIRMAN said that he wished to associate himself with the remarks of the High Commissioner and appealed to all those countries which had not yet been able to announce their contributions to communicate as soon as possible with the Office of the High Commissioner.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.